

REMARKS

Applicants request entry and consideration of this Preliminary Amendment before examination on the merits.

Applicant thanks the Examiner for the telephonic interview on August 28. Applicant has cancelled claims 1-8 and amended the remaining claims to clarify the structure of the inventive latch assembly, particularly the manually actuatable structure of the inventive assembly. As Applicant noted during the interview, none of the art of record teaches a latch assembly having the claimed manually actuatable structure. Reconsideration and allowance are therefore respectfully requested.

All objections and rejections having been addressed, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is in condition for allowance, and a Notice to that effect is earnestly solicited.

Applicant believes that no additional fees are necessary, however, the Commissioner is authorized to charge Deposit Account No. 50-1482 in the name of Carlson, Gaskey & Olds for any additional fees or credit the account for any overpayment.

Respectfully submitted,

CARLSON, GASKEY & OLDS, P.C.

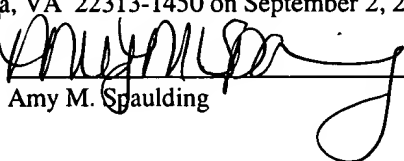
By: 

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Dated: September 2, 2003

CERTIFICATE OF MAIL

I hereby certify that the enclosed Preliminary Amendment and Request for Continued Examination is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as First Class Mail, postage prepaid, in an envelope addressed to Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on September 2, 2003.


Amy M. Spaulding